

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994

From: Mike.Czuhajewski%hambbs@wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)

Subject: "Bad" NN1G rig

WB8ZJL reported a number of problems with his NN1G kit from Dans Small Parts, and then concluded with the probable answer to his complaint: sitting on the workbench, clip-leaded together. An observation from many years of experience: clip-leading or otherwise toggling together on the bench is a fine way to get something minimally functional and assure yourself that you're on the right track, but can introduce numerous small problems...and sometimes major ones. Before condemning any project, make sure it's fully and properly assembled in it's final home, with short leads, shielded leads where appropriate, proper connectors, proper grounding, proper everything. After it's all dressed up for the party, THEN you can properly evaluate its operation and bad-mouth the designer and/or kit provider. This is the voice of experience speaking! This has happened to me many, many times over the years, and I suspect 'most everyone out there who does a lot of homebrewing has had it happen at least once. Heck, even my NE 40-40 is a piece of junk--intermittent transmit, have to tweak several variable caps to get it to start transmitting, and even then it's often transmitting at the IF frequency instead of at 40 meters. But it's slopped and slapped together, long wires on everything, many clip leads here and there, I kept blowing the keying transistor repeatedly until I finally overcame my laziness and put a key jack on the key line instead of clip-leading a ground lead onto a resistor lead to key it and hitting other components and blowing the transistor, and on and on it goes. I know (99% certainty) that everything will be great once it's in a cabinet with proper assembly, and I suspect (but cannot guarantee) that his NN1G will do the same. 73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

- - -

Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org

E-Mail: Mike.Czuhajewski%hambbs@wb3ffv.ampr.org

The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA

Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994

From: Brad Mitchell <bmitchel@CBA.Kodak.COM>

Subject: Re: "Bad" NN1G rig

Paul, I did not use coax between the rx and tx boards for the vfo. I found it to work fine without it, but I have placed the boards back to back with 1/4" or so spacers, which makes that connection quite short. Back to back configuration was recommended by Dave Benson somewhere along the line.

73 Brad WB8YGG

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: "John F. Woods" <jfw@ksr.com>
Subject: Re: "Bad" NN1G rig

> If anyone else has one of these I'd like to know what you used as the
> wiring between the TX and RCVR boards, particularly for the VFO feed to
> the TX... should it be coax?

Yes, it should; ground the shield on one end only.

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: prvalko <prvalko@vela.acs.oakland.edu>
Subject: Re: "Bad" NN1G rig

Brad,

That is EXACTLY what I was doing... trying to get it to work BEFORE I put
it in the case.

=paul=

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: prvalko <prvalko@vela.acs.oakland.edu>
Subject: Re: "Bad" NN1G rig

On Wed, 10 Aug 1994, Mike Czuhajewski wrote:

> WB8ZJL reported a number of problems with his NN1G kit from Dans Small
> Parts, and then concluded with the probable answer to his complaint:
> sitting on the workbench, clip-leaded together.

That's *WHY* I mentioned it, kinda HOPING that THAT was a part of the
problem.

> Before condemning any project, make sure it's fully and properly
> assembled in it's final home

WHOA MIKE!!! Where did I condemn anything? I'm shocked to hell that it
even worked as well as it does!

If anyone else has one of these I'd like to know what you used as the wiring between the TX and RCVR boards, particularly for the VFO feed to the TX... should it be coax?

This unit is actually completely assembled as far as I'm concerned... except for putting it in a case. There are NO alligator clips, everything is soldered, the output is a 2 inch piece of RG-178(?) to an RCA phono jack ala old Heathkits and my beloved TenTec Powermites.

73 =paul= wbz8jl

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: stark <mswmod@sage.unr.edu>
Subject: Re: "Bad" NN1G rig

On Wed, 10 Aug 1994, Mike Czuhajewski wrote:

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> Parts, and then concluded with the probable answer to his complaint:
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> homebrewing has had it happen at least once. Heck, even my NE 40-40 is
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> caps to get it to start transmitting, and even then it's often
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> Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org
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> The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
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I have always made the claim that I can make anything
work with enough clip-leads! Then they quit when I put
them in the box and make it all look pretty!!!

73's, Ron

.....KU7Y.....
.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
.....Sun Valley, Nevada.....

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: Brad Mitchell <bmitchel@CBA.Kodak.COM>
Subject: Re: "Bad" NN1G rig

I started writing a reply, and my system crashed, not sure if it went out or not.
Anyway, My basic comments are that I always get my rigs going BEFORE putting
them in the cabinet. It's much easier to debug, and at hf, it should not be
a problem. All of my nn1g rigs and others have been used for lots of contacts
before putting them in the case, Air variable C clamped to the bench and all.

Mike, If you have the tx transmitting on the IF,
you have a problem to be solved before taking the time to insert in case,
and then have to take it out again.

73 Brad WB8YGG

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: Clark Fishman (FSAC-FCD) <cfishman@PICA.ARMY.MIL>
Subject: 10 Meters

In 1969 I was on Kwajalein for 4 1/2 months,,, 10 was
in great shape....Hi-Fi audio to the US...great phone
patching....QR0...32S1....club station

X KX6HX WA2UNN

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: 10 Meters

Kevin Purcell, N7WIM, posted a note about automatic CQs. I have somewhere in the pile of stuff in the closet a CK-2 contest keyer and a MM-3. The CK-2 I promised to KH6 land for a beacon, but the MM-3 will be in the estate. :-) Good idea. If I'm working on a kit while in the shack, I can have the rig on and sending CQs every 3 minutes or so.

The only problem with this is that I know my call and the continual sound of my own call over and over and over.....

I'll set this up and see how I like it. Stay tuned to 28.060MHz. :-)

I guess with the number of rigs I have, I could do this on all bands. What to do with multiple answers. Guess go with the most interesting.

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60
adams@sgi.com

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: msdooley@collie.aud.alcatel.com (Michael S. Dooley)
Subject: 10 meter opening

Chuck mentioned 10 meters being open within the last few days. It was open last night (Wednesday) from 9:30 to 10:15PM local here in Texas to Minnesota. I worked two fellows there via a 10 meter repeater located in the St Paul/Minneapolis area. AND I did it with a converted HyGain II (yep, ex CB) putting out 4 watts into a 100 foot long wire (via a tuner, of course)!! So, 10 does have openings, but you gotta holler to be heard!

Mike KE4PC
msdooley@rockdal.aud.alcatel.com
Princeton, Texas

PS... that's 10 meter FM... ;-)

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: Jerry B. Altzman <jbaltz@scisun.sci.ccny.cuny.edu>
Subject: Re: 10 meter opening

Is working Columbia or Chile considered open?

Columbia (W2AEE in NYC) might be something interesting from 7-land. Colombia (the country) is a litter further away. Chile is probably the same distance as JA-land.

john (ki7hs/4)

//jbaltz (member, CUARC)

jerry b. altzman Entropy just isn't what it used to be +1 212 650 5617
jbaltz@sci.ccny.cuny.edu jbaltz@columbia.edu KE3ML (HEPNET) NEVIS::jbaltz

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: prvalko <prvalko@vela.acs.oakland.edu>
Subject: Re: 10 meter opening

On Thu, 11 Aug 1994, John Bate wrote:

>
> Is working Columbia or Chile considered open?

>
> john (ki7hs/4)

>
Dear John,

Not from 4-land. :-)

Abbey

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: msdooley@collie.aud.alcatel.com (Michael S. Dooley)
Subject: Re: 10 meter opening

> On Thu, 11 Aug 1994, Michael S. Dooley wrote:

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> > Chuck mentioned 10 meters being open within the last few days. It was open
> > last night (Wednesday) from 9:30 to 10:15PM local here in Texas to Minnesota.

>
>
> I *always* smile when I hear the new guys talk about 10M being "open" to

> Florida or Texas from up here in Michigan. That's not "open!" Working
> VK's and ZL's from a converted CB... MOBILE, like we do at the peak of
> the cycle... now THAT'S open!!!
>
> :-) :-) :-)
>
> =paul= wb8zjl
>
> p.s. Oh, and I got the wallpaper to prove it! :-)
>
> p.s.s. See, I told you I smile.
>
>
I've got a converted Sideband CB I use mobile on trips. Best so far is
Nara, Japan and Oslo, Norway. I don't have the paper to prove it, though,
'cause I just started doing QSL cards this year. Never was interested before,
but I'm enjoying it now! It's great fun using something you built or
converted to make contacts!
Mike KE4PC

p.s. and I'm smiling, too!

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: jbate@wv.MENTORG.COM (John Bate)
Subject: Re: 10 meter opening

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> Florida or Texas from up here in Michigan. That's not "open!" Working
> VK's and ZL's from a converted CB... MOBILE, like we do at the peak of
> the cycle... now THAT'S open!!!
>

Is working Columbia or Chile considered open?

john (ki7hs/4)

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: prvalko <prvalko@vela.acs.oakland.edu>
Subject: Re: 10 meter opening

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> Chuck mentioned 10 meters being open within the last few days. It was open

> last night (Wednesday) from 9:30 to 10:15PM local here in Texas to Minnesota.

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:-) :-) :-)

=paul= wb8zjl

p.s. Oh, and I got the wallpaper to prove it! :-)

p.s.s. See, I told you I smile.

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: xenolith@halcyon.com (Kevin Purcell)
Subject: Re: 10 meters for the Sierra

>Hi Chuck,

>

>As noted, 10 meters has been an ex-band of late. Despite this, I have
>built a 10 meter module for the Sierra--puts out 1.5 watts. Also built one
>for 12m. Problem is, there's no one to work up there!

>

>This led me to wonder if it's just bad conditions or if everyone's just in
>the habit of assuming 10 is dead. 15 is almost as bad. The question is,
>could a group of die-hards *create* a band opening by just all getting on
>when the band *should* be open and start making a bunch of noise?

>

>Anyway, I'm looking forward to my first Sierra 10 meter contact.

>

>Wayne

One trick a friend (N7RVD) uses when fishing is to set his keyer to beacon CQ with a delay between each of the 3 x 3 CQs so he can hear a reply. He starts this running and gets on with the serious job of catching dinner. When he hears someone coming back to him he drops the rod and gives them a call.

This sounds like an ideal technique for the "zombie" band (everyone thinks its dead but its really undead!).

Kevin Purcell, N7WIM / G8UDP

Seattle dBug Mac Developers SIG leader
xenolith@halcyon.com

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: 10M Mobile

Gang,

Yesterday, I took the Uniden 2510 outta the closet floor (I thought it was in the garage, but I was wrong again) and stuffed it into the truck. It has two boards mounted on the sides of the rig that I made up to set it on the transmission hump and have the front digital display visible from the driving position.

This morning on the way to work I worked a KA5 in Portland MI. Now here is where it gets touchy gang. I did this on 28.460MHz. :-) Yep, it was QRP SSB!!! The first SSB contact by this author since the middle of the last sunspot peak. I just didn't have the keyer and benchner handy when I was in a hurry yesterday.

10M does open up, but not for very long periods of time and you gotta be willing to call CQ a few to many times. If you get somebody, good, if not, then it wasn't meant to be. Patience is the key here.

OK. Until I can get the rig shipped off (remember I was stupid enough to sell this thing this week) I'll be mobile on 10M to and from work. Around 28.460MHz and yes Bunky I know this ain't no QRP ARCI calling frequency, but I don't have the list with me. Any novices want me on their frequency, I'll move over. Just email me where you are.

Now what is the equivalent of dit dit - OK GOOD BUDDY!! :-)

Pedal to the medal. :-)

K5FO 10-10 # - \$510.30
Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60
adams@sgi.com

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: Duane P Mantick <wb9omc@ecn.purdue.edu>
Subject: Re: 10M Mobile

>
> >
> > K5FO 10-10 # - \$510.30
> > Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60
> > adams@sgi.com
>
> WOW! - I've finally found a number I have that is lower than Chucks!
> (WA6HHQ, 10-10 #4284....)
>

SHEEEEEEEEEIT....you ain't worked a low 10-10 number
until you've worked Ed, K5DIT.....10-10 number 50.

That's right, 50. And he was on the air in the 10-10 contest
last weekend, too.

There are some good old boys down in Louisiana that are on with
numbers like 1525 and 1522 or something like that....

There are lots of numbers lower than 51030.....51,029 to
be exact. :-) How many of them are still either alive or both alive
AND still hamming is another story. I can tell you that as of last
night I have worked 38 numbers below 10,000.

My current total is 448, closing in on the 500 bar and getting
a VP number. I was hoping that some good short skip during the contest
might get me closer, but just didn't have enough of it.....

FYI, the *highest* number I've worked so far was during this
weekends' contest.....N7VLM from Wyoming with 66308. In spite of
the band being down these days, 10-10 is *growing*.

Duane
WB9OMC
10-10 55959 ("That's a 5 and two good signal reports") :-)

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994

From: Eric Swartz WA6HHQ <erics@cruzio.com>
Subject: Re: 10M Mobile

chuck adams writes:

> OK. Until I can get the rig shipped off (remember I was
> stupid enough to sell this thing this week) I'll be mobile
> on 10M to and from work. Around 28.460MHz and yes Bunky
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> their frequency, I'll move over. Just email me where
> you are.
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> K5FO 10-10 # - \$510.30
> Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60
> adams@sgi.com

WOW! - I've finally found a number I have that is lower than Chucks!
(WA6HHQ, 10-10 #4284....)

Chuck - I'll be listening for you on ten.

(P.S. We missed you at '2 Guys'..... We had a great time talking about
'No Show Adams'..)

Eric (Still looking for K5FO Newsletter #2!)

- - -

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: 10M Mobile Again

Gang,

I forgot. I do have another 10M rig. A
Kantronics single bander. I'll have to go
and find it. OK. Now I will have to move
back down to the CW portion of the band,
since it has a decent key jack (something
that the Uniden did not have - they liked
the 9 pin molex critter with esoteric pin-
outs).

So, the offer is still open. Let me know
what is a good frequency, else I'll hang out
at 28.460MHz +/- QRM and some awful net.
Maybe I can start a list. :-)

Also 28.060MHz when someone is on.

dit dit (ahhhhhh. that sound again.)

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60
adams@sgi.com

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: Jeffrey Robert Luszcz <jrl2@cornell.edu>
Subject: Re: 10M Mobile Again

On Thu, 11 Aug 1994, chuck adams wrote:
> what is a good frequency, else I'll hang out
> at 28.460MHz +/- QRM and some awful net.

Sounds good to me, I'll check that out when I get home from work, around 6pm/7pm California time. Though I can promise anything.

Here's my obQRPQuestion:

I have a 10m dipole up now and am putting together a 40m dipole. What have people found when QRPing in the woods. Does your SWR change enough that it becomes a problem due to trees or distance to ground level? I'd be running a htx-100 (10m rig) and a hw-8 on 40 and maybe 15.

I'd rather not have to worry about carrying a tuner with me everyplace I got.

Thanks and 73,
Jeff N2TIQ
Redwood City,CA

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: stark <msswmod@sage.unr.edu>
Subject: 9040 Drift

Just called MFJ on their 800 number. Talked to a fellow named Tom. I told him I had bought the rig used and that it was over a year old.

He said not to worry. He will send out some caps today.

Will keep you all posted. So far it sounds good....

73's, Ron

.....KU7Y.....
.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
.....Sun Valley, Nevada.....

From ab4e1.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: stark <mswmod@sage.unr.edu>
Subject: 9040 Drift

Thanks to all who responded. I will let the net know what MFJ has to say.

Has anyone replaced the relay?

Improved the agc during qsk?

Made a good noise blanker?

73's, Ron

.....KU7Y.....
.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
.....Sun Valley, Nevada.....

From ab4e1.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: James Speer <F_SPEERJR@ccsvax.sfasu.edu>
Subject: Re: 9040 Drift

>
>
>Has anyone fixed the drift in the 9040?
>
>73's, Ron

There seem to be varying degrees of drift problems with the 9040. MFJ

themselves have a kit of parts to cure the worst case. In less serious cases, people have reported success soldering a heat-sink strap from the lo xtl to the nearby transformer case.

- - -

If RST>519
Then cut_power;

Jim Speer, K5YUT
f_speerjr@ccsvax.sfasu.edu

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: James Lyons <jlyons@CAM.ORG>
Subject: Re: 9040 Drift

On Tue, 9 Aug 1994, stark wrote:

>
> Has anyone fixed the drift in the 9040?
>
> 73's, Ron
>
>KU7Y.....
>Monte "Ron" Stark.....
>Sun Valley, Nevada.....
>
>
>

Call MFJ, apparently they can supply replacement capacitors for the polystyrene ones in the VFO circuit see the most recent Quarterly for details.

Jim, VE2KN

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: "JEFF M. GOLD" <JMG@tntech.edu>
Subject: ARK4->operation

OK guys and gals,

I have been getting email from unhappy ARK4 evaluators who seem to think it is a very poor rig... Nils R. Bull Young, WB8IJN and myself just finished writing a review of the rig.. We both built the rig up and I did the factory mods on mine.. and think Nils did it on his.

After getting the recent email, I spent a lot of time operating the rig lately. Last night I got on it a lot.. 40 meters was REAL bad in my QTH and seemed to be in the QTHs of people I talked with. There was lots of noise and Broadcast station interference. I had a number of LONG QSOs with the ARK4 and I still believe our review of the rig is accurate (for the 2 rigs we are dealing with.. now I have no ideas what is going on with the rest.. or can be just a difference of opinion.)

For example, even through the lousey band conditions.. I found I had NO problem copying the stations I talked with.. my signal was a couple of S units with 5 watts and a vertical (using an antenna tuner on 40) than there stations were with 100 watts. I was speaking with a guy from Ohio. His rig was a Yaesu 990.. which I have heard a lot of good things about.. he was complaining about all the QRN and how bad the band was. Once he had me tuned in.. he had no trouble copying me and I had NO trouble copying him.. I use the audio filter all the time with the ARK4, there is no drift and I find that even with bad band conditions the receiver really seperates out signals well.. I know exaclty what frequency I am on, and have constantly received good reports on the quality of my signal.. now I may be a poor country boy.. but that is what matters to me when I use a rig.. I turned on my 850 with a 500Hz CW filter and have to say the ARK4 compared VERY WELL on receive.

The next thing to note is that this is a kit.. EVERY one of the reviewers that has emailed me has had their test unit given to them in built form.. and absolutely nothing against the reviewers..just a point to make.. to me there are 2 very important and distinctly different aspects of a kit. The first is the kit itself.. How good are the parts, how is the Printed Circuit board, how well thought out and clear and complete are the instructions. How much fun is it to build, does it work the way it is suppose to when it is done. There is no question in my mind that the ARK4 is at the very top of the class as far as building.. and everything is on one board and no additional wiring is needed (a digital NorCal?). The second aspect is the rigs performance.

Yes no rig is perfect.. My rig definetly has the audio whine people have been complaining about.. but realistically.. the whine is not there at all by the time I turn the audio up to usable levels.. now I agree.. there must be a design problem and it shouldn't be there.. but it in no way affects my use of the rig.

The second thing which I find is very minor is that the rig uses relays.. now I don't usually like to use headphones.. so if I use some form of amplified speakers, this is in fact a big problem for

me.. but I have been using headphones, which is the way the rig was designed, and have had no problem with it at all.. just every once in a while .. small click.. now this bothers me more than the whine.

The third thing is preference.. I like an analog tuning dial better than push buttons.. don't know what can be done about it.

As they say in current ham magazines:

Bottom Line-

- the rig is very small, light weight, compact
- the receiver works very well
- the transmitter works well
- works great off small gel cell
- The kit was one of the most fun I have ever built

Well that is my 2 cents worth.

Jeff, AC4HF

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: NYOUNG@DESIRE.WRIGHT.EDU
Subject: Re: ARK4->operation

I would like to second Jeff's statements about the ARK4. Like Jeff, but for a different reason, I was on the air last night playing with the two working QRP 40m rigs that I have gotten working so far. One rig was the ARK4 and the other was a CM Howe's 40m transmitter/receiver combo. Here's the deal:

1. The Howes' rig and the ARK4 both got contacts. QRM was easier cut off with the ARK4, a natural situation. The Howes' kit has no selectivity beyond the MFJ filter board that has been in seven radio projects now.
2. The Howes' rig took 7 years to get running. This was not because the Howes' rig was hard to build. It took me that long to figure out that I should have bought the VFO board when I got the RX and TX boards.
3. When I finished the ARK4, it just about tuned itself. I had it on the air about an hour after I got it finished. Yes, it has a whine that I can hear, but then the Navy almost sent me to sonar school. My wife, on the other hand says that I'm deaf. Somewhere between the two is the headset that I use with the ARK4. It is a military surplus model (I can't remember its exact military nomenclature) that was obviously set up for comfortable cw service. It hears real high, up into the 18kHz range. I guess I do too, because that's the first thing I

notice when I put them on. Like Jeff, I admit that the whine seems to disappear when the af gain goes up. Signals, noise and QRN cover the whine pretty well. I still find it distrubing, so I have made my own mods to kill it. I have also included every mod that Dick and Kathy Szakonyi have sent out to every owner of every ARK4 kit sold. That kind of support counts for a lot in my evaluation of the ARK4 kit.

4. Jeff is right about the ARK4 being a kit. I agree with him on every count regarding the building process. The instructions for the kit are lucid. The documentation is complete. AND for a bifocal wearing old curmudgeon, a person for whom every solder joint is an adventure in direction-finding and orienteering, the kit was a joy to build. A seriously pleasant joy to build. But it is a kit and like the future, unpleasant surprises upon completion of the kit may not be available in some third world countries. Look at it this way: I have to take off the glasses to aim the soldering iron and to pick out and read the numbers on the parts. I have to put the glasses back on to read the instructions and to figure out where to put the soldering iron. All the same, I had no problems getting my ARK4 together and up and running.

5. Jeff's bottom line rating is right on. I might add that the ARK4 is the answer to my 24 year search for a 40m transceiver that won't put me out of band or leave me with a dead battery. I don't have to take anything with me but power, my trusty military headset and a built-for-abuse keyer paddle set. AND an antenna. That to me is the best part. I can throw, quite literally, the radio in the car and go off to commune with mosquitos and other radio crazies in the woods. I'll pay the price and do the work to have that. That's why I bought the ARK4.

And furthermore.....

While I was on the air last night, I had one qso that went from 2 watts (the Howes kit) to 6 watts (the ARK4) to 90 watts (TR7). Same antenna all the time: a dipole at 22 feet. The fellow on the other end (N9IGE/m: Gene in Southbend, IN) said that he could tell no difference between any of the three rigs, other than the TR7's slightly stronger signal. The ARK4 held up the best of the 2 QRP rigs when it came to my hearing Gene through a signal parked damn near zero beat to us. The TR7 didn't do much better, but then I have serious audio (non-digital) doodads for that one. I was happy with the outcome of that impromptu experiment. And as far as the ARK4 was concerned, it worked. I talked. I heard. That settles it.

73 and decompress a little.

Nils

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: ab4el@Cybernetics.NET (Stephen Modena)
Subject: Archive not growing...

Folks--

I just got back from a couple-of-weeks driving vacation to Colorado...
and as I look at Think.COM//pub/radio/ham/qrp/archives/qrp.current,
it is not growing...and I had expected by now that there would have
been a .Z file newer than July 7th....

I had written privately about making an arrangement to possibly
take over managing this list for a while....

Should I assume that the owner's personal affairs are still on
hold?

If someone has been storing up the digests for the last three weeks,
hang on to them: I turned off my subscription while away...and
I may need some help to catch up the public gopher I'm maintaining
at SunSITE.unc.edu....if you do have them, you might drop me a
note to see if we can arrange a transfer.

Nope, did not attempt anything on the road via QRP...afterall, the
noise levels on 80 meters from Colorado, New Mexico and Utah were
25 db-over-S9...but I put up my "big iron" homebrew mobile mast for the
3905 Century Club (SSB) and worked Jeanne KA1IFC (MA) and others...of
course, 40 meters was spotty and easy even with my "small iron" homebrew
in-motion antenna mast...I will have QSL-crap when all the bureau envelopes
get here.

Daniel: be looking for a post card I sent you from Gateway, CO., a once
famous frontier town turned widening-in-the-road (to use the catchy
phrase of the Chamber-of-Commerce gal in Montrose, CO). :^)

73/Steve Modena/AB4EL

- - -

Steve Modena AB4EL ** National Radio Examiners--Test Center Manager
ab4el@Cybernetics.NET ** We offer periodic Commercial Radio Operator
 ** license examinations in the RTP, NC area.

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994

From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: Band Openings

I thought that working anyone on any band
meant that the "band was open". :-)

Of course, this assumes you are not using a
satellite and/or a repeater and it's longer
than ground wave or LOS (line of sight).

dit dit
Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60
adams@sgi.com

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: btoback@netcom.com (Bruce Toback)
Subject: Buying NP0 caps

Hi, all,

I'm putting together my DigiKey order for W7EL's "Optimized QRP Transceiver"
(in _QRP Classics_ and the Handbook, among other places). I've run into
a problem with the NP0 caps.

The VFO has a bunch of caps in series and in parallel, all NP0. There's one
parallel pair consisting of a 510pf NP0 and a 6-82pf variable, and another
parallel group consisting of a 220pf, a 30pf, a 12pf, and a 1.5-5pf trimmer.
Now, I can't find a 510pf NP0 in either DigiKey or Mouser. I can make that
only by paralleling three capacitors. Is that OK?

The other group has me puzzled. I can't find a 30pf cap, but I
can make one from a 12pf and an 18pf. But given that these are 5%
capacitors, the trimmer can't even trim out the normal variation in
the 220pf cap (which might vary +/- 11pf). What am I missing here?
Is it safe to do substitutions like this? Do I need 1% capacitors?
The text doesn't say.

- -- Bruce KN6MN

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994

From: Robert Gobrick <bgobrick@random.ucsf.mun.ca>
Subject: Construction Practices - Wiring

Mike Czuhajewski WA8MCQ brought up a subject that has interested me (troubled me) for a while and a subject that I think would make a good tutorial for one of the QRP journals (hint.. Mike).

The subject is the "proper" or recommended choices on wire/cable dressing for xcvr projects. I would have to say out of the many QRP kits and projects that I've built my "debugging" problems seem to center around how and what type of wire I used for inter-PCB wiring, wiring to pots, variable caps, controls; wiring to connectors etc.

I'd sure appreciate some guidelines from folks here on the INET qrp list on your thoughts to these following questions - maybe we can "volunteer" Mike to write up a tutorial on this for the QRP Quarterly like he did on torroids etc (yes that "real" donut torroid - with icing in the last issue). OK here goes:

- - What wire to use for low level and high level audio connections? minicoax?, twisted pair? straight pair? one wire with chassis as return?
- - What wire/cable to use for RF level connections? minicoax? single wire with chassis ground or PCB ground as return? coax terminated at one end only? unterminated at which end - sending or receiving?
- - What wire to use for DC type connections? twisted pair? single wire with chassis/pcb ground return?
- - What to do about multiple grounds? tie together? tie to a single ground point of reference? Separate RF grounds from DC grounds (??)
- - What about frequency sensitive connections like wire to a VFO variable cap - nice stiff wire? mini coax?
- - What to look out for in ground loop problems - dc and rf?

Anyway I hope you get the "drift" of my questions from a neophyte kit builder. Even though I've been in the EE field for a good number of years I know there is a lot of lore to these questions. In my own experience I trust that a working kit usually has a decently laid out PCB board with proper decoupling and ground problems taken care of, but my problem always occurs when the builder is left on his "own" to figure out what the best way to wire connectors and controls?

Thanks for everyone's input and thanks for Mike raising the question and THANKS to Mike for considering the replies for a tutorial article in the Quarterly (hint again :-)

73 Bob Gobrick VO1DRB/WA6ERB

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: "W. Daniel" <pandora!daniel@Think.COM>
Subject: Re: Construction Practices - Wiring

On Thu, 11 Aug 1994 10:26:14 -0230 (NDT), "Robert Gobrick"
<bgobrick@random.ucs.mun.ca> wrote:

>
> Mike Czuhajewski WA8MCQ brought up a subject that has interested me
> (troubled me) for a while and a subject that I think would make a good
> tutorial for one of the QRP journals (hint.. Mike).
>
> The subject is the "proper" or recommended choices on wire/cable dressing
> for xcvr projects. I would have to say out of the many QRP kits and
> projects that I've built my "debugging" problems seem to center around
> how and what type of wire I used for inter-PCB wiring, wiring to pots,
> variable caps, controls; wiring to connectors etc.
>
> I'd sure appreciate some guidelines from folks here on the INET qrp list
> on your thoughts to these following questions - maybe we can "volunteer"
> Mike to write up a tutorial on this for the QRP Quarterly like he did on
> torroids etc (yes that "real" donut torroid - with icing in the last
> issue). OK here goes:
>
> - What wire to use for low level and high level audio connections?
> minicoax?, twisted pair? straight pair? one wire with chassis as return?

Use as much shielding as possible on all signal lines, including RF. This means
coax. Gauge is unimportant but good choice helps in construction. Power should
go on heavy gauge and grounding should be low low resistance and preferably
single point.

> - What wire/cable to use for RF level connections? minicoax? single
> wire with chassis ground or PCB ground as return? coax terminated at one
> end only? unterminated at which end - sending or receiving?

Mini-coax is a good choice, but keep all RF connects short, as short as
possible.

> - What wire to use for DC type connections? twisted pair? single wire
> with chassis/pcb ground return?

Avoid ground loops as far as possible. Twisted pair is usually optional, makes

no observable unless its very long. A good ground plane on the PCB probably makes more difference. The ground plane on the NN1G Mk II board is not good enough.

> - What to do about multiple grounds? tie together? tie to a single
> ground point of reference? Seperate RF grounds from DC grounds (?)?

Don't think so. On the contrary. Common ground is good but like I said, if its the chassis, make sure the contact is very good. Some chassis contacts can be bad. Braids are good for grounding.

> - What about frequency stability sensitive connections like wire to a VFO
> variable cap - nice stiff wire? mini coax?

This is probably not significant when other more worrying factors are considered, such as temperature stability. As long as you keep it short, you have nothing to worry about from that sector.

> - What to look out for in ground loop problems - dc and rf?

Poor distribution of ground plane, thin and or long grounding wires. In fact long wires are a big problem. Decoupling must be done at well selected point, not randomly, usually very near the component in question. The more the better.

> Anyway I hope you get the "drift" of my questions from a neophyte kit
> builder. Even though I've been in the EE field for a good number of
> years I know there is a lot of lore to these questions. In my own
> experience I trust that a working kit usually has a decently layed out
> PCB board with proper decoupling and ground problems taken care of, but
> my problem always occurs when the builder is left on his "own" to figure
> out what the best way to wire connectors and controls?

You will want to isolate the inputs from the outputs of any gain blocks or mixers, both in PCB layout as well as in cabling.

> 73 Bob Gobrick V01DRB/WA6ERB

73,
Daniel

- - -

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+-----+-----+
| Daniel Wee | daniel%pandora@csah.com |
| UUCP1.12b | daniel.wee@f516.n600.z6.fidonet.org |
+-----+-----+
```

** It is great wisdom not to rush into action nor
obstinately hold our own opinions ** Thomas A Kempis

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: Raymond.Anderson@EBay.Sun.COM (Ray Anderson)
Subject: DSP Receiver Info

For those involved in the discussion of DSP demodulation methods with respect to HF receivers, you might want to check out the July 11, 1994 issue of "Electronic Design" magazine.

They had 3 pertinent articles of general interest on the following topics:

Undersampling

Using DSP for demodulation at IF

High Speed ADC's for demod.

73's de Ray WB6TPU
raymonda@uranium.ebay.sun.com

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: Mark J Schreiner <schreine@pogo.den.mmc.com>
Subject: Re: DSP Receiver Info

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: FOX hunt

Update. Looks like it's going to fly.

Some have volunteered for weekend duty, but I'm prone to leave it at weekdays only. That way we don't have to compete with 'Telephone Climbers Bare Naked Club' contest on OUR frequencies.

Some have mentioned that there code speed wasn't that fast. Who cares? We are going to go at your speed. Heck, it'll get us to chill out dude. :-)

On the 10M stuff. Don't we 'own' 28.060MHz. Let's

get on there and run off the 'free-banders'. We ought to be holding on the band anyway and we as a 'group' can do our part to keep the CBers from moving up. I don't like possession is 9/10 ownership. :-)

I'll take the 10M whip outta the closet (I sold the Uniden 2510 this week - probably a big mistake) and put the Argosy in the truck. Catch me on 10M Mobile QRP CW at 28.060MHz anytime I'm in the truck. The Geekmobile is alive and well in Dallas TX. Darn - guess I'll have to take down the gunrack. :-)
Now, I have to tell you about this whip. I bought an 11M whip at a truck stop. This puppy is a mag-mount jobbie with large center loaded coil. It is capable of handling a KW, I'm sure. Worked EU in mornings on 10M and JA's in evening commuting 25 miles daily during the last peak. I think the thing was like \$25 or so. Quite a deal. Also found a place the other side of Weatherford TX where I could have bought broadband linear amps for less than \$1 per watt (also a truckers paradise).

Ooops. make that 28.060MHz and whatever the novice equivalent is.

I want to be the first person in the world and on this network or anywhere else to work Wayne Burdick on all bands Sierra-to-Sierra at distances of more than 1 mile, so ground wave contacts do NOT count. Maybe we can get Wayne to play FOX with the Sierra some day and we can create a pileup on his frequency and the rest of the world will join in. They'll think he's DX. They'll think that it's a rare island. They'll think it's a conspiracy. :-) They'll think that it's madness.

In fact, as a warm up exercise, someone volunteer for some weeknight to get on the air. The rest of us will pounce on you like a duck on a june bug (Texas talk). Announce the time and place. Get on - they will come. Need a state QRP - announce it and get on - they will come.

That's it for today folks. Gotta get more time from work to get on.

Looking for way to get RF out of a QTH surrounded by 30 to 40 ft pecan trees. Any help greatly appreciated

and personal experiences. Tower is an option, but distance from possible shack to tower may be an issue due to geometry of trees.

dit dit

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60
adams@sgi.com

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: stark <mswmod@sage.unr.edu>
Subject: Re: FOX hunt

Lets see,

If one of us is the fox and all the others give out a nice 589/599 and remark about how nice the sig is.....

Can't you just see all the big boys twisting their beams off????

He, he, he, he

Remember to do it like Heard Island, sign once every ten min and do that at about 65wpm with your left foot!

73's, Ron

(I'm not going to say how many times I've been caught up in something like that....on the "where the he__ is he" end!)

.....KU7Y.....
.....Monte "Ron" Stark.....
.....Sun Valley, Nevada.....

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: ryme@wpsmtp.bloomu.edu
Subject: RE: K5DIT

K5DIT (ED) was my first 10m Tech+ contact! I had just passed the code the night before, and heard him in a QSO while I tuning through the band. When he finished and signed, I gave a call, which he answered quickly. This was my first HF Amateur contact and the first transmission on my SB-102. During the QSO I had to untie my tongue more than once, but Ed understood.

Toward the end of our conversation, Ed announced his 10-10 number. I asked for a repeat, thinking QRN had covered the rest of the number. Ed confirmed the low membership number and discussed the 10-10 program with me. I had a fine introduction to the HF bands.

If any of you get the opportunity to catch Ed on the air, give him a shout, and settle back for a friendly QSO.

73,
John Rymell N3PFF

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: Eric Swartz WA6HHQ <erics@cruzio.com>
Subject: Re: Low 10-10 #'s

Duane P Mantick writes:

>
> SHEEEEEEEEEEEIT....you ain't worked a low 10-10 number
> until you've worked Ed, K5DIT.....10-10 number 50.

Wow! - I agree - that's a low one, but I was referring to actually having a lower number than Chuck, (I -am- WA6HHQ, 10-10# 4284...). Its certainly not the lowest out there, but its lower than Chucks!

So how about it, any I-netters out there with low 10-10s?

72, Eric WA6HHQ

- - -

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: Gene Marshall <genem@hpswtgm.cup.hp.com>
Subject: NorCal Members: Time for dues?

Hello all,

I got in a discussion with another NorCal member who said the last issue

of the QRPP quarterly contained a separate request for the next year's dues to be paid. Did anyone else get this? If so, can someone let me know how much they were for?

Many thanks,
Gene

- - -

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+-----+
|Gene Marshall          \- \- \          email: genem@cup.hp.com |
|Hewlett Packard Co., MS 42UN      |          Tel: 408/447-5282 |
|Software Svcs & Tech. Division (SST) | ___o          Fax: 408/447-5039 |
|11000 Wolfe Road          L^\<._          AA6IY@N6LDL.CA.USA.NOAM |
|Cupertino, CA 95014        (_)/ (_)          CompuServe: 75060,260 |
+-----+
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From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: mvjfm@mvubr.att.com (James M Fitton +1 508 960 2577)
Subject: QRP AFIELD

Gang,

<question about the rules for QRP Afield.

<In the rules there is no mention on scoring for club outings.
<SO here is my question. Say I and a few other ops get out
<in the field. We all are running under 1 Watt, but we are on
<different bands. From the scoring sheet, even though we may be
<doing more than one QSO simultaneously, it looks like they all
<count. The total score = # contacts X points/contact X Multiplier,
<so it's to your advantage to get as many people together to work
<as one group from one location with one call or is the contest
<for single individuals only. Can we do this and will it be
<allowd? THAT is the question.

QRP-AFIELD Rule Interpretation :

Submit 1 log entry for each station.

(A station is defined as 1 transmitter on the air at one time.
You can have 5 stations with different callsigns running at one
time, but only submit one entry per station.

A station can operate on many bands, and even have many operators,
- - but not at the same time.)

The rules were an honest attempt to KIS.

72 W1FMR

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: WYNN C C <wyn@stc06.CTD.ORNL.GOV>
Subject: QRP Afield

Chuck,

There may be others here like me that are contest novices. One of the best pieces you did here was the two or three postings concerning contest typical exchange and example log for the ARCI QSO party last spring. I really missed your similar advice for the last ARCI CW sprint. I failed to notice that the HB/No HB per station was required and blew the entire sprint. Thanks for taking the time to sort through the QRP Afield rules. I hope you can again post exchange examples and typical logging.

72/3,
C. C. (Clay) Wynn, N4AOX
wyn@ornl.gov

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: K7YHA@aol.com
Subject: QRP Vol-I & II

The following orders for both volume I & II have been received as of 08-10-94:
KG0NR, KB0LRB, KE6GPL, AB5EU, WA6HHQ, W5LGO, KB0LMQ, AB6NZ.

WA5WHN & WA3INX have ordered only VOL-II.

I am currently awaiting receipt of additional copies of Vols I & II to fill

these orders. Please be patient. As soon as the books arrive from the printer they will be in the mail with in 24 hours.

This leaves me with 10 copies of Vols I & II to sell.

Prices: V01-1: \$15
VOL-II: \$20
Both volumes: \$30

All prices include postage. Makes checks or money orders payable to Rich Arland, K7YHA. Address: any callbook after 1989.

Thank you for your support.

72 Rich

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: K7YHA@aol.com
Subject: S&S Engineering ARK-4 QRP Rig

For the last month I have had a prototype ARK-4 from S&S on product review for my new book (QRP V-III) and Worldradio magazine. I have used it extensively as have three other local QRPers, all of whom are above average CW operators.

Our mutual findings were mixed. the rig is small and very compact making it a natural to take on trips. The tuning system, like it's big brother, the ARK-40, always receives mixed reviews. One thing is for sure....once you select a freq you are on that freq until you decide to QSY. No bumping the main tuning dial and moving off freq. Band scanning with this rig is very frustrating.

Our major complaint was the DUAL tones we were hearing in the receiver. These tones were present with and with out antenna connected and at all volume levels. Mike C (WA8MCQ) also experienced this problem in the ARK-4 he had for review. These tones make receiving CW a real chore unless you have the AF filter engaged. Even then, the tones still creep through the AF passband and are heard in the headphones.

S&S was contacted about this and Dick advised that he did not hear these tones that tended to dramatically distort the receive audio, but his hearing dropped off quite rapidly above 10KHZ so he was not surprised. He also said that this might be a mixing product coming from the synthesizer and he would be looking into the problem.

In all, the ARK-4 would be a good portable rig if the receiver section could be tamed. Price is a little on the steep side, for a single band radio, but considering the rugged construction and the fact that it IS a synthesized rig, the price tag seems a little less imposing.

Rich K7YHA

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)
Subject: Sierra PC boards

Fellow home-brewers:

I just got the production run of Sierra transceiver circuit boards, and they're spectacular. Small prototype shops like FAR do an OK job with single-sided boards, but I opted for commercial quality (from a board house in Mountain View) because I needed double-sided PCBs with plated-through holes.

I got more than that. These boards are absolutely flat, beautifully screened and solder masked, and the band modules are entirely gold plated (both sides!). They look so good that it is almost criminal to take a blunt instrument to them (like a Radio Shack soldering iron.) :) The solder masking alone is worth a premium because it all but eliminates solder bridges. (I trouble-shot several NorCal 40 boards, and almost invariably that was the problem.)

Here's the unexpected part: in quantity, these boards are priced comparably to what a place like FAR charges, because they're so well organized. I got a tour...would you believe something like 20+ separate processes?

The one catch is that you have to supply them with a Gerber file--a standard PCB design file format--rather than film. Most PCB layout packages will give you Gerber output, and I'm sold on it, because the resolution is extremely high (2400dpi, I think).

I highly recommend that anyone thinking about getting a large quantity of boards made consider going this route. If you're interested, give me a call and I'll give you the name of the vendor and of my sales rep, who went out of his way to get me the boards in two weeks. (It helps that he's a member of NorCal!)

[BEGIN ENVIRONMENTAL RANT]

On top of everything else, this vendor has an on-sight environmental impact

guy who keeps their processes clean--the city of Palo Alto was so impressed that they gave them a big grant to test an even cleaner process. I don't know about the rest of you, but I would be willing to pay extra (even though I didn't have to) for minimal heavy metals in the water supply.

[END OF RANT]

73,
Wayne, N6KR

P.S. -- To all who are waiting for Sierra kits:

Please spread the word that the parts are almost all in, and we should start shipping them out in the order that they were ordered around the end of August. We probably would have gotten started sooner but Jim Cates had a serious illness in the family; we're keeping our fingers crossed in hopes for full recovery. Somehow, Jim has managed to continue purchasing the parts for 100+ Sierra kits despite it all.

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: Oliver Strube-Callihan <scoliver@NETCOM.COM>
Subject: Re: Solar Panels

Hi Chris,

If you want to find out about electric generation from solar panels check out the news group alt.energy.renewable or contact CREST (Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology) in Washington D.C. You can contact their Director Michael Totten via email at totten@digex.net Another good source for more information would be the Renewable Energy Development Institute (REDI) in Willits, CA the solar capital of the world. They do not have email yet but you can call them at 707-459-1256 or send them a fax at 707-459-0366.

Good luck

Oliver

=====
Oliver Strube-Callihan
scoliver@netcom.com

- ----- End of Forwarded Message

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: "SLRC1::M405142" <M405142%SLRC1.decnet@mdcgwy.mdc.com>
Subject: Wanted: Drake RV-3 Remote VFO

Wanted: Drake RV-3 Remote VFO. Any Condition... State price, condition.
Thanks! This will finish Drake TR-4 station... (!)
72, 73 (whatever it takes)
N0XEU / Matt (314) 962-1418 eves or here.

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: montp@minerva.robadome.com (Mont Pierce)
Subject: Re: What time is dinner at 2 Guys? 6 PM

Ok thanks everyone. By all the reply responses I got it looks like
there will be a very nice turn out there. (4 responses + me + others
probably = 6 to 8 people).

73 & cul
km6wt

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu (R. D. Keys)
Subject: [none]

OK, folks, here is the weekly posting for the CWISTS.....

This week I will continue with a very rudimentary attempt at stringing it
along somewhat like an informal net, so that we can maximize the number of
folks wanting to join in in some 'semblance of an ordered sort of manner.

Last week worked out pretty well on 80 meters, stations all up and down
the east coast through to the midwest were heard. Even some QRP checkins
were there.

Bob
NA4G

QST QST QST CQ CQ CQ DE NA4G NA4G NA4G BT
111330UTC AUG 94

FM NA4G
TO ALL CW OPS WORLDWIDE BT
CWIST FRIDAY NIGHT FIST FUNCTION.
ALL HANDS QSW/QSX 3702.5/7102.5KHZ 0400UTC 13 AUGUST 1994.
GET ON THE AIR AND ENJOY A PLAIN CW EVENING ON THE 40/80 METER BANDS.
USE A REAL HAND KEY (A STRAIGHT SENDING IRON OR BUG IS ENCOURAGED).
A VERY SIMPLE NET STYLE FORMAT WILL BE UTILIZED.
WHEN THE CONTROL STATION INVITES CHECKINS, CALL CWIST DE YOURCALL K.
YOU WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND PLACED IN LINE FOR YOUR COMMENTS.
ENJOY OLD-TIME AMATEUR RADIO AND TRY SOME FRIENDLY BRASS POUNDING.
EXCHANGE MORE THAN RST QTH NAME HELLO AND GOODBYE.
HELP ALONG THE NEW HAMS ON CW TO GET THEIR SPEED UP.
TELL A FAIR YARN OR TWO AMONG FELLOW CWISTS AND RAGCHEW A WHILE.
TELL SOME HISTORY ABOUT THE OLD-TIME DAYS AND YOUR EXPERIENCES IN RADIO.
IF YOU ARE AN OLD TIMER PLEASE JOIN IN AND SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES.
IF YOU WERE EVER A PROFESSIONAL PLEASE JOIN IN AND SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES.
USE BOATANCHOR GEAR IF YOU HAVE IT AVAILABLE OR WHATEVER YOU HAVE.
SEE YOU THERE OM/YL.
73 TU SU DE NA4G BOB AR

Greetings CWISTS, Boatanchorites, Fellow Hams, et al:

I will be on again at 0400UTC for the continuing saga of the Sacred and Most Honorable Friendly Society of Brass Pounding Fist Functioning CWISTS.

Someone needs to scout out a good QRG in the 40 meter novice band that is not smack in the middle of the packet racket. The racket does not bother me, but it can be rather intimidating to the ears for the new folks aboard who have not had the time on the air to develop that grey matter filter that the Old Timers have, after eons on watch at the key. The fine tuning of the ears takes a goodly number of practice runs to get the QRM filtered out, as all the old hands aboard can readily attest.

There has been a lot of interest on the rec.amateur.radio newsgroups on sending CW and the general poor quality of many fists these days. Let us do a little to promote, not only the art of receiving CW radiotelegraphic communication, but also the art of ...sending... good CW radiotelegraphic communication. It is perfectly fine to have an individualized fist, and it is often easy to tell who is aboard on watch at the key, just by the first few characters received, but it ...should... be a point of pride and operating skill to be able to manually send characters of sufficient integrity as to be readily received by all who might be in a position to hear same.

So, let us all see who will be on watch this coming friday night (saturday morn 0400UTC). Run your treasured boatanchor if you can, or even that newfangled rice box supreme, or even that fine homebrew QRP rig.

Definition: A CWIST is a person with an active interest in the PRACTICE and USE of continuous wave radiotelegraphy as directly is appliccable to amateur radio. Such PRACTICE and USE may take the form of learning about radiotelegraphy and its history in amateur/commercial areas, its application to radio telecommunication, the practicing of the art and craft of radiotelegraphy, and the refining and developing of the technology of radiotelegraphy.

The general information is:

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+                               CWISTS Friday Night Fist Function                               +
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+                               +
+ Standard time:  Friday Nights at 0400UTC (Saturday morning)                               +
+                               +
+ Standard freq:  80 meters --- 3702.5 khz for all hands.                               +
+                               40 meters --- 7102.5 khz alternate, for all hands          +
+                               (between the heterodynes)                               +
+                               (someone scout out a better QRG)                         +
+                               +
+ Standard calling signal:  CWIST IMI DE <yourcall> K (if there are no control stations calling for +
+                               you to check in), or,                               +
+                               CWIST DE <yourcall> K (if there is a control station inviting checkins) +
+                               +
+ Note:  A simple informal net style protocol will generally be used, unless no control station assumes control for the +
+                               evening, in which case it is an open roundtable format +
+                               discussion group.                               +
+                               +
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Let us all work together to continue to advance and promote the friendly use of CW on the amateur radio bands.

Let us continue to assist and help the newcomers and slowspeeds who are trying to get their CW going.

Let us to continue to promote the use of whatever gear you have up and available, be it the newest of sorts or the oldest boatanchor. Remember, CW generation has not changed since the days of arcs, Alexanderson alternators, and Pliotrons.

Let us continue to promote the sharing and fellowship of the history and traditions of amateur radio (this includes all you OTs out there that have all sorts of goodly tidbits of history to relate to the young squirts on the block, and it includes all you young squirts on the block who, even though a bit new at CW and radio are the future of the service or hobby or profession).

Let us continue to promote the ``elmering'' of all of our new folks by the old timers aboard, in any way that we can. We should not be out to convert the brethren to CW, but should be there to elmer them and assist them in learning/practicing their skills, if possible.

So, OTs aboard, young squirts in the wings, high-speed aficionados of the art, and slow-speed ragchewers, join in on the fun. If your equipment is old boatanchor, so what. If your signal is a bit weak or chirpy, so what. If your antenna is just a mere piece of wire up into the trees, so what. YOU can still join in and participate. YOU are the folks who will make it what it can be, a goodly learning time and an enjoyable evening for all.

See You There OM/YL.....

73 TU SU SK DE NA4G
Bob

* May you have fair winds and following seas on your watch at the key. *

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: dh@deneb.csustan.edu (Doug Hendricks)
Subject: dining at 2Guys

The meeting of the Inet group at 2 Guys From Italy was really nice. Special thanks go to Jeff Anderson for making the reservations and giving the directions. The following were in attendance: Jeff Anderson, Eric Swartz, Vic Black, Mont Pierce, Jeff Furman, Wayne Burdick, Mark Cronenwett, Bill Paul, Doug Hendricks, Bruce Florip and Bill Kelsey. Bill won the honor of traveling the longest distance, all the way from Ohio.

We got to see the R2/T2 boards and kits. They are exquisite.

Absolutely first rate. If you have ever thought about building this kit, get it from Bill, as the parts are first class. Bill arrived about 7:30, and after meeting everyone, he pulled the goodies out of the briefcase. We all enjoyed seeing the real thing. R2/T2 boards do exist. I know because I saw them with my own eyes.

Wayne Burdick had the boards for the Sierra there also. And, they are also absolutely a work of art. The band module boards are 'gold' plated, and they are impressive.

I had the September issue of QRPP for those who didn't get theirs at meeting on Sunday. The rest of you will be happy to know that they were put in the mail today. Just had to do it, as I know that now you will start checking the mail box. We now have 685 members in NorCal. When you get your issue, be sure to check the mailing label, as your subscription expiration date is printed on it. If it says "last issue Sept. 94", you need to send Jim Cates \$5 for a renewal, or you will not receive the December issue. Jim's address is:

Jim Cates
3241 Eastwood Rd.
Sacramento, CA 95821

By the way, the \$5 rate is for U.S. subscriptions. The Canadian rate is \$10 US, and the Foreign rate is \$15 US funds only.

Back to the meeting. We were there for over 3 hours, and it was a blast. Why don't the rest of you have similar get togethers in your areas? Put a notice on the net, and see how many you can scare up. Invite all of us, and write a report.

72, Doug

From ab4e1.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: janderson@polycom.com
Subject: dinner at 2 quys...

To all those going to dinner at "Two Guys from Italy" this evening (Wed.). I've made reservations for 10 under the names Hendricks and Anderson.

See you there!

- Jeff, WA6AHL

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994

From: rossi@VFL.Paramax.COM

Subject: not quite QRP

Although this is not quite true "QRP" but does anyone know of places that sell small amplifiers for QRP transceivers? Something that would boost the 3-4-5 watt output of these QRP rigs to 20-30 watts or so?

Any good kits out there?

- ----

Pete Rossi - WA3NNA

rossi@vfl.paramax.com

Unisys Corporation - Government Systems Group

Valley Forge Engineering Center - Paoli, Pennsylvania

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994

From: Robert Gobrick <bgobrick@random.ucs.mun.ca>

Subject: Re: not quite QRP

Pete - I don't have a current copy of 73 magazine handy but I think I saw a ad from Ramsey that they had a "boots" amplifier for their QRP rigs. Otherwise there was a Power Fet amp by Doug Demaw in one of his QRP guides and handbook - I believe the PC board was available by FAR circuits. Hope that helps.

73 (no 72 for QR0 types like you - hi ;-)) Bob V01DRB/WA6ERB

On Thu, 11 Aug 1994 rossi@VFL.Paramax.COM wrote:

> Although this is not quite true "QRP" but does anyone know of places that
> sell small amplifiers for QRP transceivers? Something that would boost
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>

> Any good kits out there?

>

> ----

>

> Pete Rossi - WA3NNA

> rossi@vfl.paramax.com

> Unisys Corporation - Government Systems Group

> Valley Forge Engineering Center - Paoli, Pennsylvania

>

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: Stephen Trier <sct@po.cwru.edu>
Subject: Re: not quite QRP

Most of the QRP how-to-build-it books have plans for 10-30 watt amps, usually right at the end. There was a 25W solid-state, all-band amp in QST a few months ago. (Maybe February?) It was the issue with a green cover with a picture of a land rover on the front. The fine print at the end offered kits for both 25W and 50W output, BYOH.

Communications Concepts sells a couple of amp parts sets in the not-quite-QRP class. I think these are often used as preamps for KW class amps. These aren't really kits -- one buys the parts and boards from CCI and then assembles it using one's own wisdom and a Motorola Application Note or Engineering Bulletin. Has anyone tried one of these quasi-kits? Does CCI include the App Note, or does the builder need to beg it from Motorola?

Stephen

P.S. BYOH = Bring Your Own Heatsink. ;-)

- - -
Stephen Trier The photovoltaic cell is not an electronic device
sct@po.cwru.edu in the accepted sense, since the conduction through
KG8IH it occurs in a semiconductor....
 - Standard Handbook for Electrical Engineers, 1941

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: John Louie <jdl@watsun.cc.columbia.edu>
Subject: qrp freqs??

hi,

I'm new to this group, and have been toying with making a qrp rig. The Lectrokit SP1 spider sounds like a good first choice, and I read the review by Jim Cates WA6GER.

My question is what are the qrp frequencies in the 10-40 meter bands, (so I can start listening on my shortwave) and would 10 meter qrp be a waste of time? (I have a htx-101, radio shack 10meter

mobile)

thanx for any info,
John Louie N2RJE, tech+ working up to general
jdl@columbia.edu

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: prvalko <prvalko@vela.acs.oakland.edu>
Subject: Re: qrp-digest V1 #86

On Thu, 11 Aug 1994, prvalko wrote:

> I would imagine then, that a strip of coax braid soldered along the edge

Anybody flames me for typing a "k" instead of an "x" is gonna get it.

Arrrrrggg!

READ FIRST, THEN HIT RETURN... second rule of posting.

=paul=

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: prvalko <prvalko@vela.acs.oakland.edu>
Subject: Re: qrp-digest V1 #86

On Thu, 11 Aug 1994, John D. Hysell wrote:

> What I did was make my own PCB, and I laid the two boards together on one
> common ground plane - it seems much more stable than having two separate
> boards. I actually stripped all the parts off of the separate boards that
> I have previously built, and populated the new combined board with the same
> components...
>

I would imagine then, that a strip of coax braid soldered along the edge
of both PCBs would have the same effect?

73 =paul= wbz8jl <=== cute new call

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: hysell@itc.Kodak.COM (John D. Hysell)
Subject: Re: qrp-digest V1 #86

Paul (WbZ8JL) wrote:

If anyone else has one of these I'd like to know what you used as the wiring between the TX and RCVR boards, particularly for the VFO feed to the TX... should it be coax?

What I did was make my own PCB, and I laid the two boards together on one common ground plane - it seems much more stable than having two separate boards. I actually stripped all the parts off of the separate boards that I have previously built, and populated the new combined board with the same components...

My combined artwork is available to any who want it (although it is a trivial exercise to lay the two individual board layouts on the photocopier side by side...) 8-)

73 - John
N2VTK

From ab4el.com Tue Aug 9 00:00:00 1994
From: ab4el@Cybernetics.NET (Stephen Modena)
Subject: qsl-crap...qsl-craMp!

My fingers said:

>I will have QSL-crap when all the bureau envelopes get here.
 ^^^

But, read my lips, I said: qsl-craMp... ;^)

73/Steve/AB4EL

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Steve Modena AB4EL ** National Radio Examiners--Test Center Manager
ab4el@Cybernetics.NET ** We offer periodic Commercial Radio Operator
 ** license examinations in the RTP, NC area.